

the District. Since 2006, D.C. has experienced two 100-year flooding events. Scientists predict that tides on the Atlantic coast could rise 2 to 4 feet by the year 2100, causing as much as \$7 billion worth of property damage in the District, which would regularly be under threat by floodwaters. This fact was highlighted by a study released by the nonprofit Climate Central last week. Needless to say, these events will become more and more common due to climate change and sea level rise.

The District of Columbia would use funding from the Coastal Zone Management Program for flood risk planning and environmental restoration to prevent and mitigate future flood damage. At the same time, this work would help to restore and conserve the District's coastal resources such as habitat, fisheries, and endangered species.

If included in the Coastal Zone Management Program, the District of Columbia would be eligible for \$1 million or more of Federal funding annually to assist in coastal flood-control projects, to combat non-point source water pollution, and to develop special area management plans in areas experiencing environmental justice and/or flooding issues.

The National Coastal Zone Management Program, housed in NOAA, was established through the passage of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. At the time, Congress recognized the need to manage the effects of increased growth in the Nation's coastal zone, which includes jurisdictions bordering the oceans and the Great Lakes.

There are currently 34 jurisdictional coastal zone management programs, including both States and territories. In order for the District of Columbia to participate in the program, Congress must pass this amendment to the Coastal Zone Management Act that would include the District under the definition of a "coastal State."

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill I am introducing today be printed in the RECORD following my statement.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3104

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Flood Prevention Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1972.

Section 304(4) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1453(4)) is amended by inserting "the District of Columbia," after "the term also includes".

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER,

Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3108. A bill to provide counsel for unaccompanied children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. HIRONO, Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Fair Day in Court for Kids Act of 2021. This important legislation would provide all unaccompanied children with legal representation as they go through immigration proceedings. This will protect the legal rights of vulnerable children running from violence, abuse, and gangs, but it will also make our immigration system more efficient.

Five years ago, I traveled to Baltimore, MD, to observe immigration court hearings on the children's docket. I watched children, who had suffered violence and trauma in their home countries, trying to navigate our complex legal system without any support. Leaving young people, children as young as 3, to combat an adversarial government lawyer and explain why they qualify for a legal immigration status is unacceptable and unconscionable.

I have also had the opportunity to speak to children who were able to secure an immigration status with legal support. These children are grateful to have escaped the dangers that drove them to leave home. They also express with certainty that they would not have been able to succeed in their cases if they did not have lawyers representing them.

In immigration court, people seeking relief through our immigration system do not have a right to counsel and often cannot afford counsel who understand our Byzantine immigration system and can explain the lifelong ramifications that result from certain decisions. This unfairness is most acute when it comes to unaccompanied children who are trying to escape brutal violence and crushing poverty. Most do not speak English, nor do they have any understanding of our legal system. Yet we expect them to argue their case before immigration court and against trained and skilled ICE attorneys.

The Fair Day in Court for Kids Act would remedy this injustice by providing all unaccompanied children with legal counsel. Attorneys would review the case, advise the child of their legal options, and remain with them throughout their immigration proceedings. Legal counsel would ensure these children have the legal rights and opportunities they are afforded, helping our immigration system protect the people it was meant to support.

In addition to protecting the rights of unaccompanied children, legal counsel will ensure their cases move quicker and more smoothly. Cases with unrepresented children are subject to

delays and a slower pace as the judge must repeatedly help the child understand what is going on and help them respond. Children with legal counsel also have a 98 percent appearance rate in court. These efficiencies can only help our overwhelmed immigration court system, which currently has a 1.4 million case backlog.

I call on my Senate colleagues to help protect unaccompanied children and quickly pass this bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 431—SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF PARENTS TO BE THE LEADING VOICE IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LEE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 431

Whereas parents are the first teachers of their children and have the inherent and fundamental right to make decisions regarding the upbringing, education, and care of their children;

Whereas parental involvement in the educational system contributes to a collaborative environment with school administrators and teachers, which enhances the educational outcomes of all students;

Whereas school board officials, school administrators, and teachers are public servants, and parents are entitled to demand accountability from such public servants for policies and actions that affect their children;

Whereas the public meetings of the school board in Loudoun County, Virginia, have become emblematic of the increased engagement by concerned parents across the United States with respect to school policies and educational curricula impacting their children;

Whereas labor organizations representing teachers and school boards have begun advocating that administrators and teachers should not listen to parents who express concerns regarding such policies and curricula;

Whereas school administrators and school board officials have alarmingly implemented policies designed—

(1) to restrict parental involvement at public meetings;

(2) to prohibit parental visitation with children during school hours; and

(3) to limit parental input on policies and race-based curricula taught in the classroom;

Whereas, in a September 2021 letter to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., the National School Boards Association—

(1) compared grassroots demonstrations and protests by concerned parents against

harmful school policies and educational curricula affecting their children to “domestic terrorism and hate crimes” against school boards, administrators, and teachers; and

(2) requested that the President use Federal law enforcement resources and legal authorities designed to address domestic terrorism, such as the authorities provided by the USA PATRIOT Act (Public Law 107-56; 115 Stat. 272), to investigate and prosecute parents who protest against such policies and curricula;

Whereas, in response to such letter, United States Attorney General Merrick Garland issued a memorandum, dated October 4, 2021, directing Federal law enforcement resources to be used to discourage, investigate, and prosecute parents engaged in such demonstrations and protests; and

Whereas parents should be at the forefront of the decisions affecting the education and well-being of their children, and school boards, school administrators, and teachers should work collaboratively with parents to improve educational outcomes rather than treat parents as intruders in the education of their children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the right of parents to be the leading voice in the education of their children;

(2) condemns threats and acts of violence against school board officials, school administrators, and teachers;

(3) denounces attempts by school board officials, school administrators, and teachers to restrict parental involvement in the development and implementation of school policies and educational curricula affecting their children;

(4) rejects the threatened or actual use of Federal or State law enforcement resources to intimidate parents and silence parental involvement in decisions affecting the education of their children;

(5) encourages schools and parents to enter into constructive and open dialogue regarding school policies, curricula, and instructional materials to improve the educational outcomes of all students; and

(6) demands Attorney General Merrick Garland rescind the memorandum issued on October 4, 2021, that inappropriately directs Federal law enforcement resources to be used against parents advocating on behalf of their children against harmful school policies, curricula, and instructional materials.

SENATE RESOLUTION 432—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2021 AS FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF FILIPINO AMERICANS AND THEIR IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 432

Whereas the earliest documented Filipino presence in the continental United States was October 18, 1587, when the first “Luzones Indios” arrived in Morro Bay, California, on board the Nuestra Señora de Esperanza, a Manila-built galleon ship;

Whereas the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes 1763 as the year in which the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States was established in St. Malo, Louisiana;

Whereas the recognition of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States adds a new perspective to the history of the United States by bringing attention to the economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions made by Filipino Americans to the development of the United States;

Whereas the Filipino American community is the third largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group in the United States, with a population of approximately 4,100,000;

Whereas, from the Civil War to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, Filipinos and Filipino Americans have a longstanding history of serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas more than 250,000 Filipinos fought under the United States flag during World War II to protect and defend the United States in the Pacific theater;

Whereas a guarantee to pay back the service of Filipinos through veterans benefits was reversed by the First Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act, 1946 (Public Law 79-301; 60 Stat. 6) and the Second Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act, 1946 (Public Law 79-391; 60 Stat. 221), which provided that the wartime service of members of the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines and the new Philippine Scouts shall not be deemed to have been active service, and, therefore, those members did not qualify for certain benefits;

Whereas 26,000 Filipino World War II veterans were granted United States citizenship as a result of the Immigration Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-649; 104 Stat. 4978), which was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on November 29, 1990;

Whereas, on February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5; 123 Stat. 115), which established the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to compensate Filipino World War II veterans for their service to the United States;

Whereas, since June 8, 2016, the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program has allowed Filipino World War II veterans and certain family members to be reunited more expeditiously than the immigrant visa process allowed at that time;

Whereas, on December 14, 2016, President Barack Obama signed into law the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-265; 130 Stat. 1376) to award Filipino veterans who fought alongside troops of the United States in World War II the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress;

Whereas, on October 25, 2017, the Congressional Gold Medal was presented to Filipino World War II veterans in Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Building, a recognition for which the veterans had waited for more than 70 years;

Whereas Filipino Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that may be bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces, and continue to demonstrate a commendable sense of patriotism and honor in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the late Peter Aquino Aduja of Hawaii and the late Thelma Garcia Buchholdt of Alaska became the first Filipino American elected to public office and the first Filipina American elected to a legislature in the United States, respectively, inspiring their fellow Filipino Americans to

pursue public service in politics and government;

Whereas Filipino American farmworkers and labor leaders, such as Philip Vera Cruz and Larry Itllong, played an integral role in the multiethnic United Farm Workers movement, alongside Cesar Chávez, Dolores Huerta, and other Latino workers;

Whereas, on April 25, 2012, President Barack Obama nominated Lorna G. Schofield to be a United States District Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and she was confirmed by the Senate on December 13, 2012, to be the first Filipina American in United States history to serve as an Article III Federal judge;

Whereas Filipino Americans play an integral role on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic in the healthcare system of the United States as nurses, doctors, first responders, and other medical professionals;

Whereas Filipino Americans contribute greatly to music, dance, literature, education, business, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, science, technology, the fine arts, and other fields that enrich the United States;

Whereas, as mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National Historical Society, efforts should continue to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture because the roles of Filipino Americans and other people of color have largely been overlooked in the writing, teaching, and learning of the history of the United States;

Whereas it is imperative for Filipino American youth to have positive role models to instill—

(1) the significance of education, complemented by the richness of Filipino American ethnicity; and

(2) the value of the Filipino American legacy; and

Whereas it is essential to promote the understanding, education, and appreciation of the history and culture of Filipino Americans in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Filipino American History Month in October 2021 as—

(A) a testament to the advancement of Filipino Americans;

(B) a time to reflect on and remember the many notable contributions that Filipino Americans have made to the United States; and

(C) a time to renew efforts toward the research and examination of history and culture so as to provide an opportunity for all people of the United States to learn more about Filipino Americans and to appreciate the historic contributions of Filipino Americans to the United States; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to observe Filipino American History Month with appropriate programs and activities.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Filipino American History Month. Throughout the month of October, people across the United States come together to pay tribute to the rich culture, history, and heritage of Filipino Americans.

Since the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States was established more than 250 years ago, Filipino Americans have played a notable role in the development of our country. As the third largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group in the United States, Filipino Americans add to the fabric of our society through contributions in healthcare, the arts,